

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraphs [0001] and [0002] of the specification as follows:

[0001] The invention concerns a process for laser welding with pre- and/or post-heating in the area of the weld seam the welding and warming are carried out by a single laser beam with a substantial even output and focusing however with varying rates of advance ~~according to the precharacterizing portion of Patent Claim 1.~~

~~[0002] With regard to the process to be obtained, the invention is set forth in the characterizing part of Patent Claim 1. The further claims concern advantageous embodiments and further developments of the inventive process (Patent Claims 2 through 5).~~